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mentioned that the Madras Shops and Establishments Act, 1947 and the Factories Act, 1948 prohibit the employment of children under 14 years of age. There is no proposal to amend these Acts."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO:—" Sir, in view of the fact that there is a provision of 15 years in one Act and 14 years in another Act, will the Government consider the desirability of bringing all the Acts on the same level and fix 15 years?"

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—" The 15 years mentioned in the Children (Pledging of Labour) Act, 1933, is a Central Act. The Factories Act is also a Central Act."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO:—" Will the Government, Sir, bring this to the notice of the Central Government so that their attention may be drawn to this?"

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—" We will consider the suggestion, Sir."

Provision of accommodation and employment for the houseless population of the Madras City.

* 77 Q.—SRI B. BHIMA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Prohibition be pleased to state—

(a) whether any census has been taken of the number of persons who sleep on the pavements in the City of Madras;

(b) whether any census has been taken of those who are in occupation of unauthorized huts or sheds in the City of Madras; and

(c) whether the Government have taken any steps to provide suitable accommodation and employment for those who come under the above category; and, if so, what the details of such steps are?

THE HON. SRI N. SANJEEVA REDDI:—" (a) A census of persons sleeping on pavements, platforms, pials of vacant houses, etc., was last taken by the Corporation of Madras on 25-11-1933. The number of such persons according to the census was 10,748.

" (b) The Corporation of Madras maintains a list of unauthorized huts in the City. The number of such huts now is about 3,800. A census of persons occupying these huts has not however been taken.

" (c) The Government have not so far taken steps to provide accommodation or employment to houseless people in the City. Seven houses are being maintained by the Corporation for providing shelter to the homeless and they accommodate in all 230 families."

SRI P. R. K. SARMA:—" May I ask, Sir, what attempts have been made to enrol people living in unauthorized huts as voters to the Legislature?"

THE HON. SRI N. SANJEEVA REDDI:—" A separate question may be put to the concerned Minister."

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Sri B. BHIMA RAO:—" May I ask, Sir, what amount the Government have spent this year in order to provide housing for such poor people who sleep on the pavements near the Government House even in these wintry days? "

The Hon. Sri N. SANJEEVA REDDI:—" Government are not spending directly. But the Corporation of Madras is spending. I think they have spent Rs. 2,50,000."

Sri R. SURYANARAYANA RAO:—" Sir, will the Government be pleased to say whether they will assist the Corporation if they come forward with plans to accommodate the houseless people? "

The Hon. Sri N. SANJEEVA REDDI:—" It will certainly be considered taking into view the financial position of the Government."

Sri P. R. K. SARMA:—" May I ask, Sir, whether all the houseless people are people without any ostensible means of livelihood, or are the people working in factories and other undertakings? "

The Hon. Sri N. SANJEEVA REDDI:—" All the people are not exactly people working in factories. Some are rickshaw pullers, and there are also other poor people living in the pavements."

Number of Vanaspathi factories in the Province.

* 78 *Q.*—Sri M. NARAYANA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of Vanaspathi factories in the Province;

(*b*) the quantity of Vanaspathi manufactured therein; and

(*c*) the number of Vanaspathi factories for which licences have been granted and the number for which the grant of licence is under consideration?

The Hon. Sri H. SITARAMA REDDI (on behalf of the Hon. Minister for Industries):—" (*a*) Four Vanaspathi factories are working in this Province at present. Two of these were already in existence and two have been started under the Post-war Development Plan.

" (*b*) 45 tons per day.

" (*c*) Under the post-war development programme, ten new Vanaspathi factories, including the two referred to in the answer to clause (*a*) above, have been permitted to be set up in this Province. No application for starting additional factories is pending consideration."

Sri M. NARAYANA RAO:—" May I ask, Sir, whether all the factories have been completed? "

The Hon. Sri H. SITARAMA REDDI:—" I believe many of them have started construction, and are completing construction."